any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Amendments

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 1, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please enter the following new claims 35-100:

35. (New) A nucleic acid molecule comprising at least a first *lox* site flanked by at least one promoter and at least one antibiotic resistance gene.

36. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 35, wherein said *lox* site is a *lox*P site.

37. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 35, wherein said *lox* site is a *lox*P site and wherein said promoter and said antibiotic resistance gene are operably linked.

38. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 37, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is a vector.

39. (New) A nucleic acid molecule comprising at least one promoter operably linked to at least one antibiotic resistance gene, wherein said promoter and said antibiotic resistance gene are separated by at least one recombination site.

40. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 39, wherein said first recombination site is selected from the group consisting of a *lox* site, an *att* site, and mutants thereof.

41. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 39, wherein said first recombination site is a *lox* site.

42. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 41, wherein said *lox* site is a *lox*P site.

43. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 39, wherein said nucleic acid molecule further comprises at least one additional recombination site.

44. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 43, wherein said at least one additional recombination site is selected from the group consisting of *lox* sites and *att* sites.

45. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 43, wherein said at least one additional recombination site is a *lox* site.

46. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 45, wherein said *lox* site is a *lox*P site.

47. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 39, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises at least one cloning site.

48. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 39, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is a vector.

49. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 48, wherein said vector is an expression vector.

50. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 39, wherein said antibiotic resistance gene is selected from the group consisting of a chloramphenicol resistance gene, an ampicillin resistance gene, a methicillin resistance gene, a tetracycline resistance gene and a kanamycin resistance gene.

51. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 39, wherein said antibiotic resistance gene is a chloramphenicol resistance gene.

52. (New) A nucleic acid molecule comprising a functional antibiotic resistance gene, wherein a first portion of said antibiotic resistance gene and a second portion of said antibiotic resistance gene are separated by at least a first recombination site.

53. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 52, wherein said first and second portions of said antibiotic resistance gene are operably linked.

54. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 52, wherein said first portion of said antibiotic resistance gene is a promoter.

55. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 52, wherein said first recombination site is selected from the group consisting of a *lox* site, an *att* site, and mutants thereof.

56. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 52, wherein said first recombination site is a *lox* site.

57. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 56, wherein said *lox* site is a *lox*P site.

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58. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 52, wherein said nucleic acid molecule further comprises at least one additional recombination site.

59. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 58, wherein said at least one additional recombination site is selected from the group consisting of *lox* sites and *att* sites.

60. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 58, wherein said at least one additional recombination site is a *lox* site.

61. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 60, wherein said *lox* site is a *lox*P site.

62. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 52, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises at least one cloning site.

63. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 52, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is a vector.

64. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 63, wherein said vector is an expression vector.

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65. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 52, wherein said antibiotic resistance gene is selected from the group consisting of a chloramphenicol resistance gene, an ampicillin resistance gene, a methicillin resistance gene, a tetracycline resistance gene and a kanamycin resistance gene.

66. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 52, wherein said antibiotic resistance gene is a chloramphenicol resistance gene.

67. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 52, wherein said first portion of said gene is located adjacent to said recombination site.

68. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 52, wherein said second portion of said gene is located adjacent to said recombination site.

69. (New) A nucleic acid molecule comprising at least one promoter operably linked to at least one antibiotic resistance gene, wherein said promoter and said antibiotic resistance gene are separated by at least one *lox*P site.

70. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 69, wherein said antibiotic resistance gene is selected from the group consisting of a chloramphenicol resistance gene, an ampicillin resistance gene, a methicillin resistance gene, a tetracycline resistance gene and a kanamycin resistance gene.

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71. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 69, wherein said antibiotic resistance gene is a chloramphenicol resistance gene.

72. (New) A nucleic acid molecule comprising at least one functional antibiotic resistance gene, wherein said functional gene comprises a promoter and an antibiotic resistance gene separated from each other by at least one *lox*P site.

73. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 72, wherein said antibiotic resistance gene is selected from the group consisting of a chloramphenicol resistance gene, an ampicillin resistance gene, a methicillin resistance gene, a tetracycline resistance gene and a kanamycin resistance gene.

74. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 72, wherein said antibiotic resistance gene is a chloramphenicol resistance gene.

75. (New) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 35.

76. (New) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 37.

77. (New) The host cell of claim 75, wherein said host cell is an *Escherichia coli* cell.

78. (New) The host cell of claim 76, wherein said host cell is an *Escherichia coli* cell.

79. (New) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 39.

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80. (New) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 42.

81. (New) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 43.

82. (New) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 46.

83. (New) The host cell of claim 79, wherein said host cell is an *Escherichia coli* cell.

84. (New) The host cell of claim 80, wherein said host cell is an *Escherichia coli* cell.

85. (New) The host cell of claim 81, wherein said host cell is an *Escherichia coli* cell.

86. (New) The host cell of claim 82, wherein said host cell is an *Escherichia coli* cell.

87. (New) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 52.

88. (New) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 53.

89. (New) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 57.

90. (New) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 58.

91. (New) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 61.

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92. (New) The host cell of claim 87, wherein said host cell is an *Escherichia coli* cell.

93. (New) The host cell of claim 88, wherein said host cell is an *Escherichia coli* cell.

94. (New) The host cell of claim 89, wherein said host cell is an *Escherichia coli* cell.

95. (New) The host cell of claim 90, wherein said host cell is an *Escherichia coli* cell.

96. (New) The host cell of claim 91, wherein said host cell is an *Escherichia coli* cell.

97. (New) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 69.

98. (New) The host cell of claim 97, wherein said host cell is an *Escherichia coli* cell.

99. (New) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 72.

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100. (New) The host cell of claim 99, wherein said host cell is an *Escherichia coli* cell.